

# Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

## Addendum

MIHP Number: B-3577

Property Name: Augustus J. Albert House  
Property Address: 108 N. Greene St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Based on a site visit conducted on December 29, 2005 by John Milner Associates, on behalf of Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA), this property is no longer extant.

B-3577

c. 1850

Augustus J. Albert home  
Baltimore  
no access/U. Md.

The Augustus J. Albert house, located on the west side of North Greene St. between Lexington Avenue and Fayette Street, is a three-story tall, three-bay wide dwelling constructed of brick laid in common bond. A cast iron store front with centrally placed double-door entrances has been appended to the original facade. Fenestration on the second and third floors is identical; window openings are boarded up but retain flat arched brick lintels and projecting, dressed stone sills. A multi-molded wooden boxed cornice in deteriorating condition defines the eave arch. A gable-roofed dormer is centrally located on the standing seam metal roof. A chimney is located in the south gable end.

Albert Augustus, the probable builder of this dwelling, was an importer of hardware and cutlery with a store located at 340 Baltimore Street.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Augustus J. Albert House

AND/OR COMMON

108 North Greene Street

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

108 North Greene Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. of Maryland for use by the U. of MD. Telephone #: 853-3683

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Office of University Planning, University of Maryland

CITY, TOWN

College Park

VICINITY OF

Maryland, zip code 20742

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Court House

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Fayette &amp; Calvert Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Augustus J. Albert House (108 North Greene Street) located on the west side of North Greene Street between Fayette Street and Lexington Avenue is a three story tall, three bay wide dwelling constructed of brick laid in common bond.

On the first story a <sup>Victorian</sup> cast-iron store front has been added. Double entrances are centrally located.

The second and third floors are identical. Window openings, with flat-arched brick lintels and projecting dressed stone sills, have been boarded up.

*boxed* ✓ Although in deteriorating condition a multi-molded wooden box cornice above a blank frieze defines the eave area. A gable-roofed dormer is centrally located on the standing seam metal roof. A chimney is located in the south gable end.

INTERIOR:

The interior was not accessible at the time of this survey.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	local history		

SPECIFIC DATES 1840-1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This parcel of land was one of several lots owned by David Forney along the west side of North Greene Street, formerly named Union Street. Forney had purchased from Daniel Lamont in 1801 part of a tract of land called "Chatsworth" totaling four acres. The 1822-23 Baltimore City Directory lists Forney as a "gentleman" residing at the northwest corner of Greene and Fayette Streets. When he died in the latter years of the 1820's his will (WB12/357) instructed Louisa his wife to sell at her discretion all vacant lots.

Land records research suggests that this dwelling located at 108 North Greene Street was probably built by Augustus J. Albert between 1840 and 1859. In 1840, Albert paid \$1733.33 to Louisa Forney, widow of David Forney for a "now vacant and unimproved lot" measuring 26' in width X 100' in depth. He then sold the land nineteen years later to David L. Hammersley for the sum of \$6500.

The 1845 and 1850 Baltimore City Directory indicates that ✓ Albert Augustus was an importer of hardware and cutlery whose store was located at 340 Baltimore Street. His dwelling is listed at 32 Greene Street;<sup>1</sup> thus suggesting that, like many locally prominent merchants of Baltimore, Albert was a speculative builder. Curiously, the 1850 directory cites Louise Forney as the occupant of 26 North Greene Street.<sup>2</sup> When he sold his property in 1859 to David L. Hammersley, Albert, according to land records was living in Liverpool, England.

Hammersley owned this property until his death in the opening decade of the twentieth century. City directories for the second half of the nineteenth century list Hammersley as a confectioner and ice cream manufacturer residing at 36/108 North Greene Street.

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore Street addresses were renumbered in the mid-1880's. After this, 32 North Greene became 114 North Greene St.

<sup>2</sup> At this time 108 North Greene Street was known as 26 North Greene St.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Bridget M. Deale, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

December 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

7.1 Description (Continuation)

Addenda: The following description of the Augustus J. Albert House was prepared October 18, 1984 by Orlando Ridout V following notification that the rear wall of the house had collapsed and that the building would be demolished.

Description:

The Augustus J. Albert House at 108 North Greene Street is a three story brick rowhouse three bays wide and two rooms deep with painted flush brick chimneys at the south end of the steeply pitched roof. An original rear flounder projects from the north bay of the rear facade. This wing is three stories high and of brick construction, but due to lower interior ceiling heights it is considerably lower in height than the main house. The wing is narrow where it adjoins the rear of the house, but broadens out to form an exaggerated L plan. The original wing was later extended one additional room to the rear.

The front facade of the house, facing North Green Street, is three bays wide and three stories high with a late 19th century storefront across the first story at street level. The brickwork on the front facade is laid in stretcher bond with very fine machine made brick and thin, refined mortar joints. The facade of this building is not joined into the buildings on either side.

The first story of the front facade consists of an entrance door to the north that leads up several steps to the stair passage of the dwelling a storefront to the south. The storefront is symmetrical, with large shop windows flanking a recessed central entrance. A molded cornice is carried across the top of the first story, with painted brackets above paneled wood pilasters. There are three large window openings ranged across the second story, three slightly smaller openings on the third story, and a single pitched roof dormers centered on the roof. These windows are boarded up and lack early sash; but appear to have been fitted with three different sizes of 6/6 sash. Decorative features on this facade include the splayed brick jack arch lintels over the window openings, portions of a molded wood cornice and remnants of early trim on the dormer window.

The rear facade is in an extreme state of collapse. Only the north bay survives intact; the wall has collapsed between the north jamb of the center windows and the south jamb of the south windows. The rear wing, projecting from the north bay, has served to stabilize that part of the building. The brickwork of the rear facade is laid in five course American bond using a common grade of bricks. A three-course corbeled brick cornice is carried across the eave. The window openings that survive have soldier course brick lintels with a very slight splay at either end. Heavy hewn lintel pieces are visible directly behind the brick lintels.

The street level story of the rear facade evidently was opened up in the late 19th century when the storefront was added, and it was probably the collapse of that inserted support beam that caused the collapse of the rear wall. Large window openings are partially evident in the center and south bays on the second and third stories. A window in the north bay, overlooking the roof of the wing is positioned between the second and third story, lighting an interior stair. A small window opening in the third story of the north bay appears to be cut in. A large shed roof dormer is centered on the rear slope of the roof.



## 7.2 Description (Continuation)

The original rear wing is constructed of brick laid in five-course American bond with modestly splayed jack arches above the openings. One window retains 6/6 sash. A large three-flue flush brick chimney is centered on the north wall of the westernmost of the two rooms in the original wing.

The later rear addition is constructed of brick laid in seven-course bond.

The interior of the building is laid out with a stair passage to the north running the full depth of the main house and two rooms to the south. The front door opens into a small vestibule at the east end of the passage; several steps lead up to an inner set of double doors that open into the stair passage.

The front or east room on the first story is at street level and has apparently served as a commercial store since the building was constructed. While it is common for early dwellings to be adapted for commercial uses, the framing that supports this lower floor is all original. Commercial shelving on the north wall of the front room appears to date to the Greek Revival period and predates the later Victorian storefront.

The rear or west room is several steps higher than the front room, and is level with the stair passage. This room appears to have served either as domestic space or as a private counting room and office. A fireplace is centered on the south wall, and remnants of decorative plaster ceiling medallions are evident amidst the rubble.

The principal stair rises against the north wall of the passage to a landing against the rear wall, turns 180 degrees and continues to the second story. This stair originally continued on up to the second and third stories, but is now almost completely collapsed. A small enclosed stair near the center of the third story passage provided access to the loft. A door under the first story landing opens onto a rough cellar stair, and a narrow service stair is located in the hyphen between the main house and the original rear wing.

Victorian architrave trim survives on the first story of the main house, while Greek Revival trim is evident throughout the second and third story. Hand riven plaster lathing visible in the second story ceiling and the third story stair partition suggest a date of construction no later than about 1840, when machine sawn lathing became standard. This evidence combined with other architectural features suggests a date of construction of circa 1830s for the house.

Other notable features include the plastered finish of the fourth floor loft and the relatively unusual insulated plaster insulation under the first story flooring. This insulation was installed by nailing one-inch battens to the floor joists several inches below floor level, then lining the joist spaces with short lengths of plank and filling the space created with a thick layer of plaster. Once the plaster was installed, the floor boards could then be laid. Similar examples have been noted at Lansdowne (QA-87), built in 1823, and at the Hermitage (QA-113), circa 1830s.



Significance

The Augustus J. Albert House appears to be a rare example of a combined dwelling and store dating to the 1830s. While it was quite common for these two activities to be combined in a single building, few examples have been located and correctly identified. The renovation to the commercial front that occurred in the Victorian period contributed to the confusion regarding the original configuration of this building. Significant features of the Albert House include the Greek Revival commercial shelving, the later Victorian storefront, the plaster insulation under the first story, and a wide range of 19th century decorative trim and detail. It is unfortunate that the collapse of the rear of the house has made preservation impossible.

## CHAIN OF TITLE

108 North Greene Street  
4-7-616-31

RHB2985-729 1/24/1973 Deed	From Sarah Torosino to the State of Maryland, University of Maryland.
SCL3478-625 11/8/1925	From Thomas Foley Hiskey, Julius H. Wyman, Trustee to Sarah, Joseph Torosino. By decree of Circuit Court # 2 of Baltimore City dated 7/16/1919 (Docket 27-A-48) between Elizabeth B. Bell et al, plaintiffs and William H. Hammersley, etc., defendants Hiskey and Wyman were appointed with authority to sell the property described below for \$5100. This property, was sold to Torosino "Beginning on the west side of Greene Street at a distance of 94' north from corner formed by intersection of north side of Fayette Street and west side of Greene Street which place of beginning is designed to be at the northeast corner of the two (now three) story brick house belonging to the Estate of the late Stephen Grove and running north binding on Greene Street 26' then west paralleling Fayette Street 100' to an alley 10' communicating with that street and the S paralleling with Greene Street and binding on east side of said alley on ground belonging to the Estate of Stephen Grove then east binding thereon 100' to place of beginning".
GES181/192 11/24/1859 Deed	From Augustus I, Francis Jane Albert to David L. Hammersley for the sum of \$6500.
TK301/319 8/15/1840 Deed	From Louisa Forney to Augustus J. Albert for \$1733.33. According to the will of David Forney (WB12/357), his wife Louisa was authorized to sell the vacant lots owned by her husband.
TK289/252 7/28/1839 Lease	From Louisa Forney to Alfred Reiss
WG66/669 5/16/1801	From Daniel Lammot to David Forney for 140 pounds, a tract of land called Chatsworth, being part of land conveyed by Harry Dorsey Gough to Daniel Lammot totalling four acres.

Deed describes a spring and tanyard already erected by David Forney.

W. LEXINGTON STREET

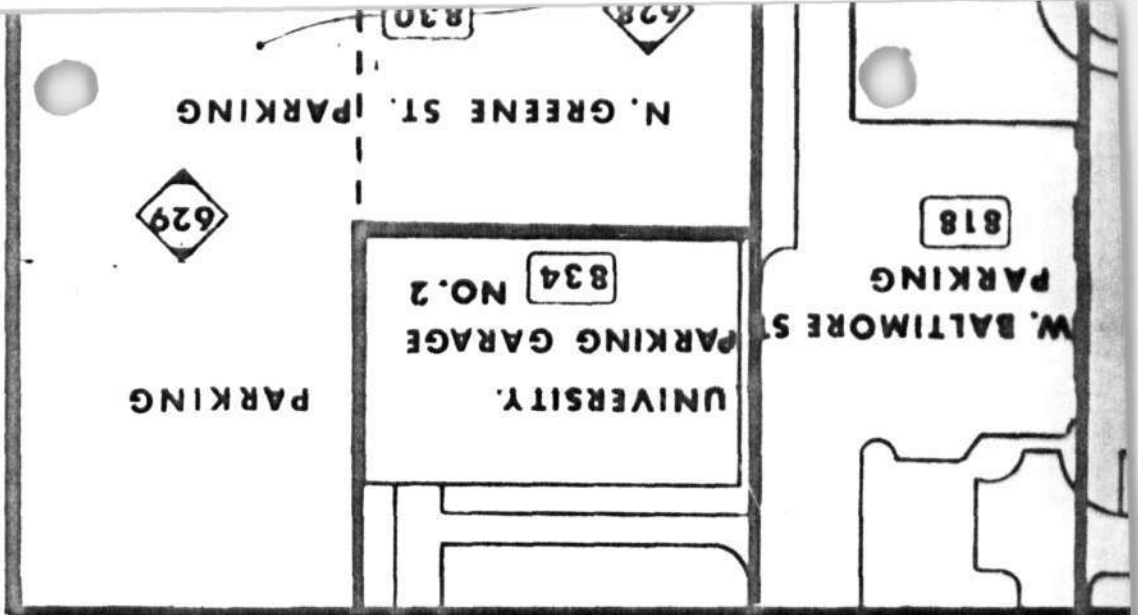
B-3517

PEARL

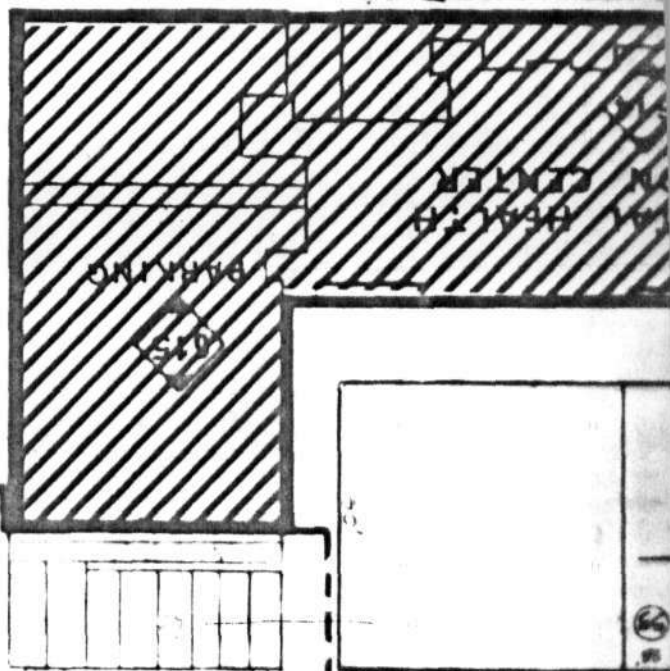
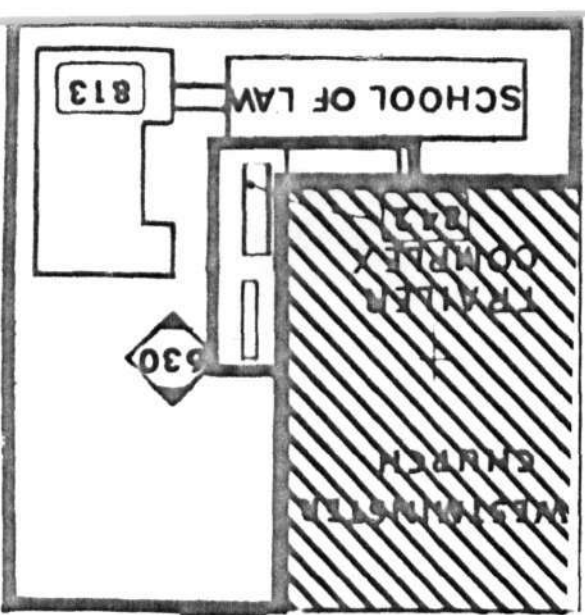


N. GREENE ST.  
B-3517 Augustus J. Albert house  
108 N. Greene St.

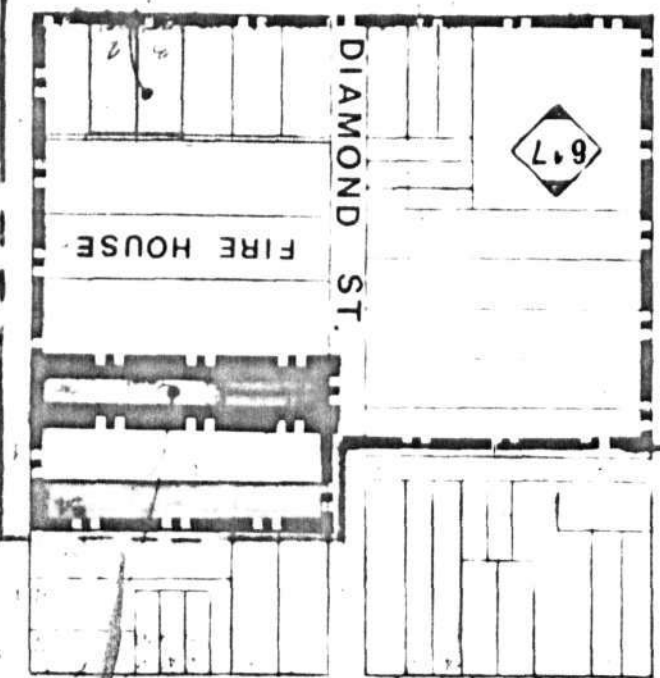
W. FAYETTE STREET  
TURK HOUSE



W FAYETTE ST. LOTS



N. PACA STREET



CIVIL LAW CL  
843

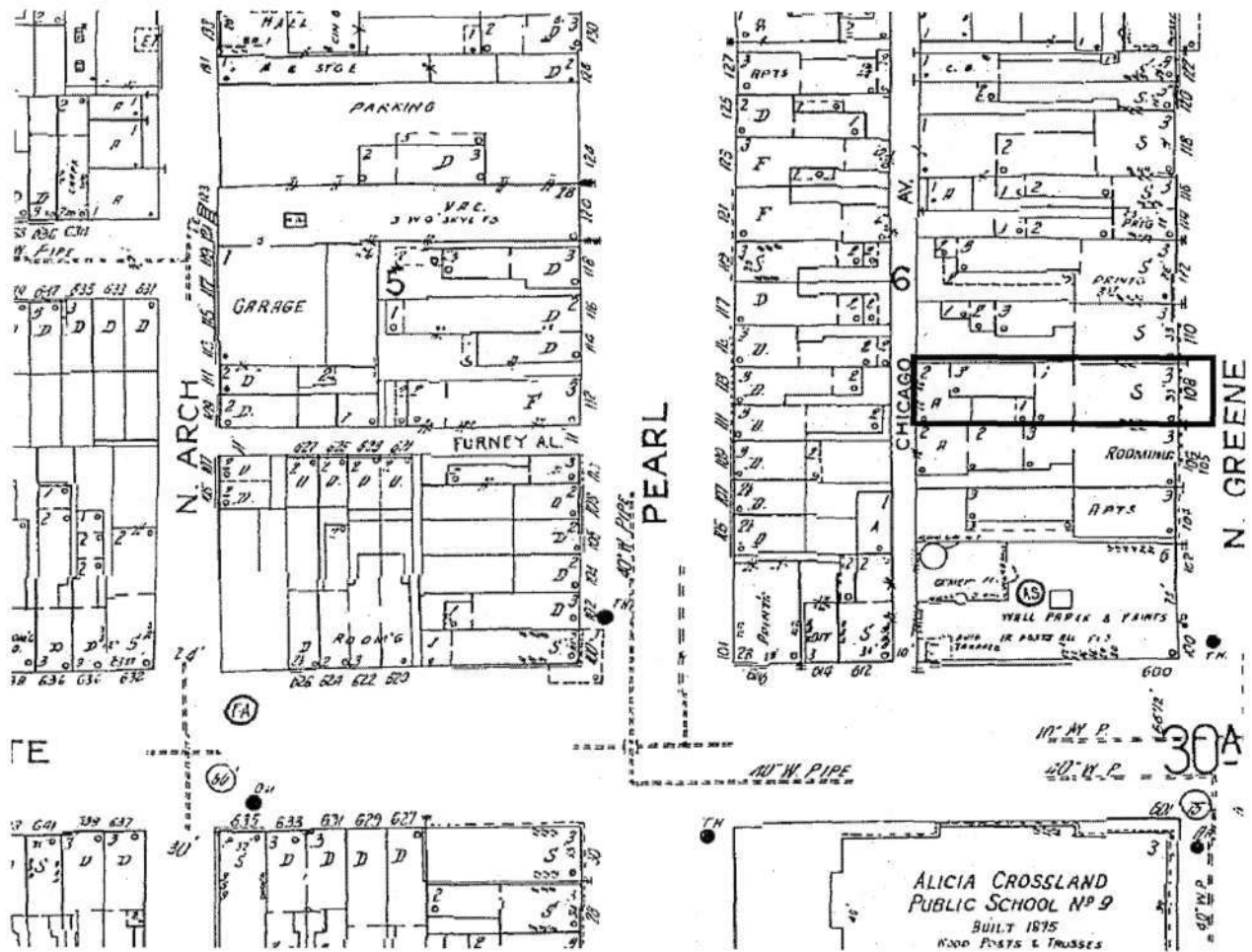
B-3577

Augustus J. Albert House

108 N. Greene Street

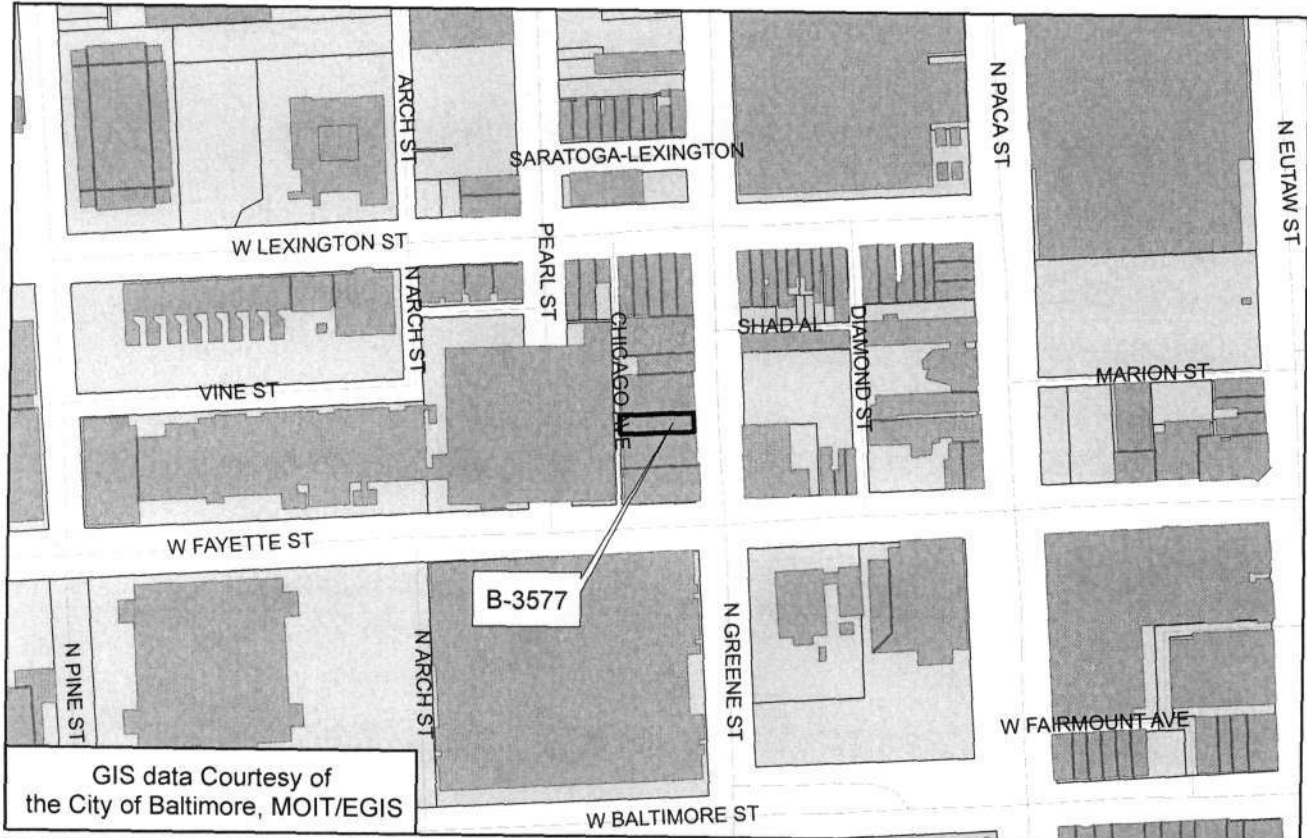
Baltimore

Sanborn Baltimore 1914-1953 vol. 1A, 1914, Sheet 29A



B-3577  
Augustus J. Albert House  
108 N. Greene Street  
Block 0616 Lot 029  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad

**Demolished**









B-3577

108 N. Greene Street  
Baltimore, MD (UMAB)  
East facade.  
12/79 E. Coxe